

Arms That MAY 13 1975 Fall Into Red Hands

Washington

A Defense Department official said yesterday about \$2 billion worth of serviceable U.S. military equipment was taken over by the Communists when South Vietnam fell.

Erich Von Marbod, a deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Pentagon comptroller's office, said the rest of the \$5 billion in equipment on hand as of the January, 1973 cease-fire either was destroyed or moved out of South Vietnam in the last days.

Equipment seized by the Communists included about 300 naval vessels, another 300 aircraft of all sizes, "a substantial quantity of rifles and grenade launchers," and docks and other facilities.

Marbod and L. Dean Brown, a State Department official directing the refugee resettlement program, testified before a 2½ House appropriations subcommittee.

Brown said the former South Vietnamese government's gold holdings, valued at \$16 million, fell into Communist hands.

"We had aircraft put aside to take it (the gold) out, but for some reason the Vietnamese in charge of moving it didn't get it out," Brown said. He said he had no knowledge of reports former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu took a quantity of gold with him when he fled.